



# Department of Justice

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District of Montana

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## **MONTANA MAN SENTENCED FOR RECEIPT OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

BILLINGS – Ricky Lee Hector, a 49-year-old resident of Missoula, formerly of Butte, was sentenced today to a term of 97 months in federal prison in connection with his guilty plea to receipt of child pornography. Hector was also ordered to pay a special assessment of \$100 and will be under supervision for 10 years.

In an Offer of Proof filed by the United States, the government stated it would have proved at trial the following:

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents ICE were investigating allegations of child pornography access by users utilizing the peer-to-peer file sharing network. One investigation involved a person in Missoula who made child pornography available to share via a file sharing program beginning in October of 2006 and continuing into 2007. ICE agents tracked the computer IP address to a residence in Missoula.

On March 15, 2007, they executed a search warrant on that residence. Hector was at the residence when the agents arrived. When questioned, Hector admitted that he used the peer-to-peer file sharing program Limewire and that he occasionally used the program to search for adult pornography. Hector admitted that he had occasionally downloaded pornographic images containing preteen children, but that he had not intentionally downloaded them and deleted them as soon as he saw them. Hector then admitted that he didn't delete those files for a few days, and then terminated the interview.

Agents seized a computer and other computer equipment. They also discovered over 200 pages of printed child pornography pictures in Hector's dresser drawer and a notebook with suspected child pornography search terms written in it. Subsequent forensic examination revealed thousands of images and hundreds of movies of child pornography that Hector had received via the Internet during 2006 and 2007 and continued to possess until the service of the warrant. Hector possessed images and movies of children clearly prepubescent and children engaged in sadistic or masochistic abuse or other depictions of violence.

The investigation was conducted by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Assistant United States Attorney Marcia K. Hurd prosecuted the case.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, the Department of Justice launched Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from

online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys' Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit [www.projectsafechildhood.gov/](http://www.projectsafechildhood.gov/).

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